



## CITY OF LODI

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

**AGENDA TITLE:** Reconsider Council action on December 16, 1992 pertaining to the Parks fertilization program.

**MEETING DATE:** January 20, 1993

**PREPARED BY:** Parks and Recreation Director

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That the City Council reconsider Council action taken to reduce the amount of fertilizer purchased by 50%. Further, that Council approve spending the 1992-93 allocation to purchase fertilizer.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** At the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission held January 5, 1993, Commission voted 4-0 to bring the issue of continued fertilization of Lodi parks back to City Council for reconsideration. Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Bob Johnson has mailed the attached letter to our office stating the reasons why he believes this issue should be reconsidered.

The Commission is concerned that the Parks and Recreation departmental budget has already been the one most severely impacted. The Commission is further concerned that we had previously reduced our fertilization by 50% and feels that the problems caused by reduced fertilization will be overshadowed by future potential problems that may arise.

Finally, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the budget be reviewed in its entirety rather than making cuts as an item may appear before the Council on the consent calendar.

Many of the arguments presented by the Commission are included in Bob Johnson's letter (see attached). The Commission was not pleased with the compromise proposal and felt that our recommendation should have been to table the matter until it could be reviewed by the Commission. In retrospect, it appears this would have given the Commission a chance to be involved in this decision. Council may agree that this is the course that should have been taken. If so, our error was in not seeing this as an option at the time.

**FUNDING:** The funds are currently still allocated to the Parks Division since there was no Council action to reduce the Parks budget at the time of Council action. Estimated additional expenditure of \$5,000.

Ronald Williamson, Director, Parks & Recreation

Prepared by Scott Essin, Parks Superintendent

APPROVED

THOMAS A. PETERSON  
City Manager



recycled paper

# Lodi Parks & Recreation Department

125 NORTH STOCKTON STREET • LODI, CALIFORNIA 95240

January 12, 1993

Lodi City Council Members:

At a recent City Council meeting, a \$10,000 allocation for the purchase of fertilizer was cut to \$5,000.

During the January 1993 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the question of this cut was discussed at length. The Commission is aware of the tight budget constraints facing the City of Lodi and is further aware that each Department in the City will have to participate in cost reductions to balance the budget. We hope that the Council will see the wisdom of having all Departments bear the pain equally and that no one Department will be sacrificed for the benefit of others.

We would like to point out that, at the last round of budget cuts, the Parks and Recreation Department was among the most severely impacted with a reduction of 7%. Most other major Departments were reduced by 4% or less. A copy of the breakdown by Department is attached for your reference.

We would also like to point out that the budget for fertilizer had already been reduced by 50% because of the drought. In effect, this latest reduction provides the Department with 75% less fertilizer than it has used in past years. The Park system has always been a source of pride for the City of Lodi and it would be a shame to see a deterioration of the system over a relatively small amount of money. By putting the fertilizer allotted on only the actively used fields and areas suggested by the Council, it allows the remainder of the Park system to fall behind from a maintenance point of view and it may be more costly to repair the problem at a future date.

We also question if this is to be a recurring pattern relative to this budget or those of other Departments. It might be better to look at a budget in its entirety and then consider cuts if needed rather than striking at "targets of opportunity" as they appear on the Consent Calendar. We feel confident that the Parks and Recreation Staff are capable of complying with directives from the Council dealing with percentage reductions and might be in a position to suggest alternative cuts which, while not less painful, would be more palatable.

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PARKS DIVISION  
(209) 369-1251

RECREATION DIVISION  
General Information: (209) 333-6742  
Field/Facility Condition: (209) 333-6744

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In addition, we note that the reduction in question was not discussed by the Commission prior to action by the Council. We would like to be involved as much as possible in the budget process as it relates to the Park and Recreation Department. While we know it will not always be possible, we request that we be given an opportunity to review and comment on any future budget cuts before they are made.

Finally, we request that you reconsider your decision to delete the \$5,000 allocation for fertilizer and allow the Parks Division to spend the money allocated for fertilizer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Johnson", with a stylized flourish extending to the right. Below the signature is a small, handwritten mark that looks like "NW".

Bob Johnson  
Chairman  
Lodi Parks and Recreation Commission

BJ:srb  
Attachment

cc: Ron Williamson, Director of Parks and Recreation

**CITY OF LODI**  
**1992-1993 BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT AND PERCENTAGE OF APPROVED REDUCTION**

<b>Department</b>	<b>1992-93 Budget</b>	<b>Reduction</b>	<b>%</b>
City Council & City Clerk	\$271,015	\$26,635	10%
City Attorney	\$165,545	\$2,680	2%
City Manager & Personnel	\$692,865	\$11,765	2%
Community Development	\$776,300	\$30,675	4%
Finance	\$2,060,710	\$87,950	4%
Police	\$6,685,735	\$55,860	1%
Fire	\$3,317,145	-0-	-0-
Public Works	\$3,884,180	\$140,260	4%
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>\$2,830,035</b>	<b>\$196,400</b>	<b>7%</b>
Electric Utility	\$28,841,830	\$50,425	-
Community Center	\$516,250	\$15,040	3%
Library	\$1,047,680	\$21,500	2%

Note: Reductions approved by City Council 11/4/92

Revised 1/12/93  
Lodi Parks and Recreation Department